EXCISE

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PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

John R. Burke, Esq.
American Ambassador
Georgetown

Dear Mr. Ambassador,

The following is a resume to bring you up to date on a number of items.

I thought you would like some additional information about my visit with Ryan's legal counsel. The discussion with his staffer went well and I believe she realizes that Ryan will have to contact the People's Temple to get their approval for his visit or cancel the trip. I outlined various scenario's for her should Ryan try to enter Jonestown without an agreement such as; the GOG not able to arrange transportation for the party, additional allegations of conpiracy (the Embassy's telegram on Mark Lanes's press conference was especially helpful in that regard) and refusal by the Temple to permit the part entry into Jonestown. I emphasized the Embassy's position on the group i.e. they are American citizens with a right to their privacy while at the same time trying not to be obstructive or negative toward the visit. Essentially, I repeated the points listed in your telegram with my observations and suggestions to support your comments.

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Another subject. I was pleased that Pat Mathews was able to meet with the Eximbank representative (Bernie Lubran) for Guyana. Assuming the GOG has money to pay its bills I think Pat was able to convince Lubran that the Banks/Barry-Wehmiller sale would be treated as a government contract thereby assuring Banks of access to foreign currency and thus removing most of Eximbank's objections to the loan. I believe it was useful for them to get together for an exchange of views. Lubran mentioned to me that he now has a more realistic view point regarding Guyana after meeting with Pat and talking with me.

I have attended several recent meetings of the Christopher Committee on AID loans, primarily the IDB and IFAD input into the Black Bush Polder and Upper Demerara Forstry Projects. HA has not objected to these and other current bilateral and multilateral project for Guyana since they clearly are BHN (basic human need) projects.

Finally you probably heard about the Senate's vote on sugar support prices and read the Department's cable reporting on the meeting Ambassador Vaky had with Ambassador's of sugar exporting countries in the region. The outlook here on relief for sugar imports is gloomy. Nothing is final but no one here believes Congress is likely to drop support prices. There is not much hope that this Congress will get to our accession to the International Sugar Agreement in this session so maybe that's best at this time.

I have asked IO for copies of Arrons, Jackson's and John Donaldson's UNGA addresses and send them on when they become available.

I have enclosed a copy of the Congressional letter I did on Tidemann's visa problem I trust it meets with your approval.

Brandon Grove is settling in and concentrating on Nicaragua. Sally left for New York and "corridor rumor" has it that she will get her own post in early 1979 Norm Bouton has also come on board and already one senses an improvement in procedures and paperflow. I will be absent from the office from November 6 to 17 on military leave. Russ Surber's replacement will probably cover for me although I will still be in Washington at Arlington Hall (DIA) in case of an emergency. Russ is off to PM on October 13. Lisa and the boys are fine and send their best wishes.

Sincerely,

Richard A. McCoy
Office of Caribbean Affairs

Enclosure:

As stated above.

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